was held by a non-IAS officer, if so, the circumstances necessitating appointment of an IAS officer as DTS Secretary?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Criteria for Appointment of Telephone Advisory Committee Members

968. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL:
SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who are serving as members of the Telephone Advisory Committees at district/State level, State-wise details thereof;

(b) whether the number of such persons are increasing over the years;

(c) what benefits they get the criteria adopted to appoint such persons; and

(d) whether such Advisory Committees are achieving their objectives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The information is given in Annexure. [*See Appendix 190, Annexure No.15*]

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Members of Telecom/Telephone Advisory Committee (TAC) are entitled to a rent free temporary residential service telephone connection for the tenure of his/her nomination presently with 1150 free calls bi-monthly. Besides this, they are also entitled to traveling allowance and daily allowance to attend the TAC meeting as applicable to them under the relevant rules. Categories of persons eligible for consideration or nomination in the TAC are given in the Annexure. [*See Appendix* 190, *Annexure No. 16*]

(d) Yes, Sir.